From December 2021
(Volume 121)

Stilt Walkers in action at Weston super mare in October 2021

Cover Picture

December... 2021

I heard a well known musician saying "I just had to get my feelings down straight away into my lyrics"..I know how he felt..I often have varied, dislocated and eclectic thoughts and have this pressing desire to commit them to the pages of my Photo History.

A recent BBC programme featured many varied views of the older period of life and so many rang true that I will endeavour to find the broadcast and 'filch' some relevant portions.

One great thing about being retired is meeting new people that I would not normally have met: various ages, ethnic groups and walks of life..in fact all human life.
More and more, I love the diversity of my, of our, current lifestyle and our joint ability to have such varied enjoyments, interests and friends, is also echoed in our children.

If nothing else, that is such a great inheritance to leave behind.

I reflected, that when I retired, I could honestly say, to the best if my knowledge, I behaved honourably in my entire business life….with my customers, my suppliers and my staff.
I think that, this fact, to me, is something that I hope to have shown, by example, to my family. I can see so many examples illustrating that they are all decent people and that is surely the ultimate accolade.

Our past makes us the people we are today.

I don't intend this to be a diatribe of self congratulations, rather a small personal note of how I feel and standards and attitudes that seep out , colouring our present life. It is a great period now when we are able to do what we want without the constraints of routine inflicted by necessity. Our friends just contact us to arrange meetings, meals together, walks, gallery visits and trips away, and other social activities so they also obviously feel this 'newfound freedom'. It is really massively invigorating but tinged with a slow insidious awareness of our mortality as often ill health or injuries in others curtail our meetings. I guess we also will have that 'joy' to look forward to?

A new idea of mine. These volumes currently contain my thoughts, family 'stuff' lots of inconsequential stuff and some current affairs but from now on I will also intersperse UK and world issues in these red boxes. The views may be controversial or even totally ignorant..but they will be mine... '

Photo History

A sunny day clearing Pymmes Brook ponds in Bury Lodge Wetlands

Getting the waders on are a tricky task

This area of the filtration have become overgrown

Photo History

These reeds slowly dominate the filtration ponds preventing the slow path of the water back into the brook and onto the River Lee.

We cleared these pools within the pond and the visible clarity of the water can be seen very quickly

Our home made thick vegetable soup went down really well

After a demanding days work we cleaned off our muddy waders by walking in the shallow brook

Cold, muddy, tired...but happy

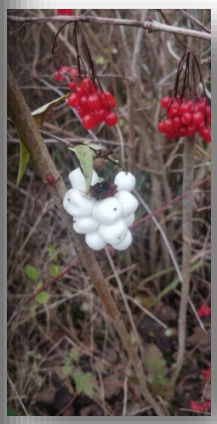
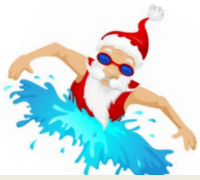


Photo History

A jolly Christmas lunch with fellow swimmers(?) from Southgate Leisure Centre at the West Lodge Park Hotel

Brian, Roy, Jack & Chris



Our newly appointed swimming coach

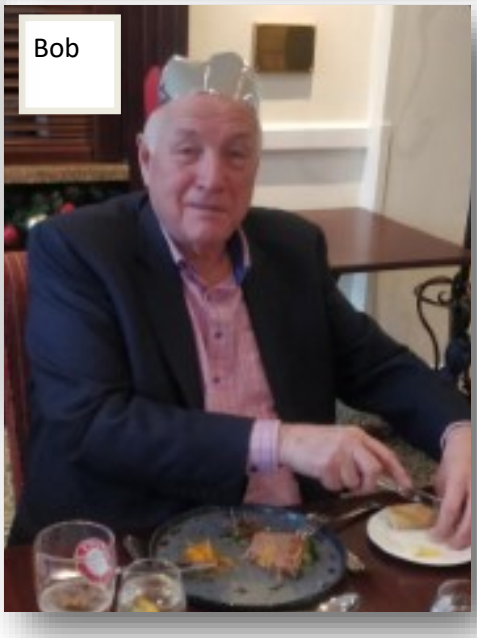
Chris & Raj

Raj

Amazing what our coach 'tortoise'

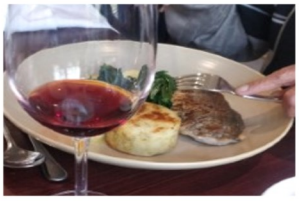
Zaher

Jack


Bob

Michael

Ralph & Zaher



Chris

Brian

Roy

Photo History

Angela, a regular fellow swimmer suggested a social meet-up for us all and we met at Delisino at Southgate and this was the first time many of us had seen one another dressed and with dry hair. It was a great social meeting of 17 of

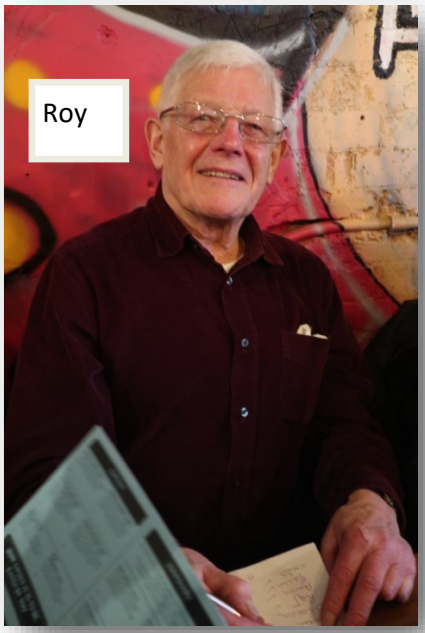
Paul

It is a great place with really good service and food

Bob

Peter

Caroline



Roy

Angela (Our leader!)

Ruth

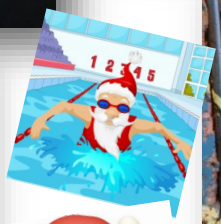
Photo History

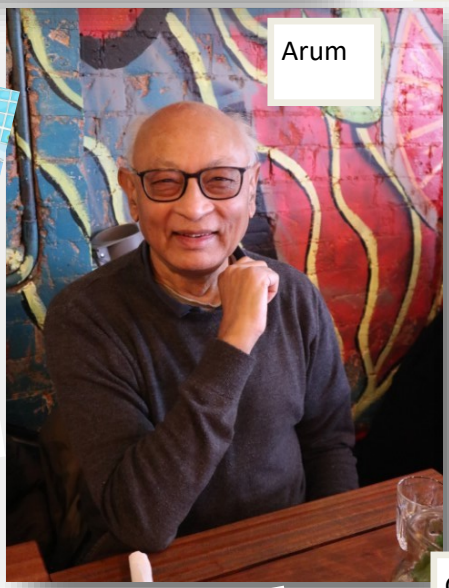
Chris

Linden

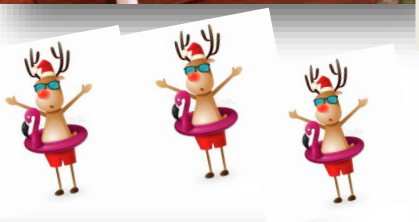
Clare

Ray




Arum

Raj



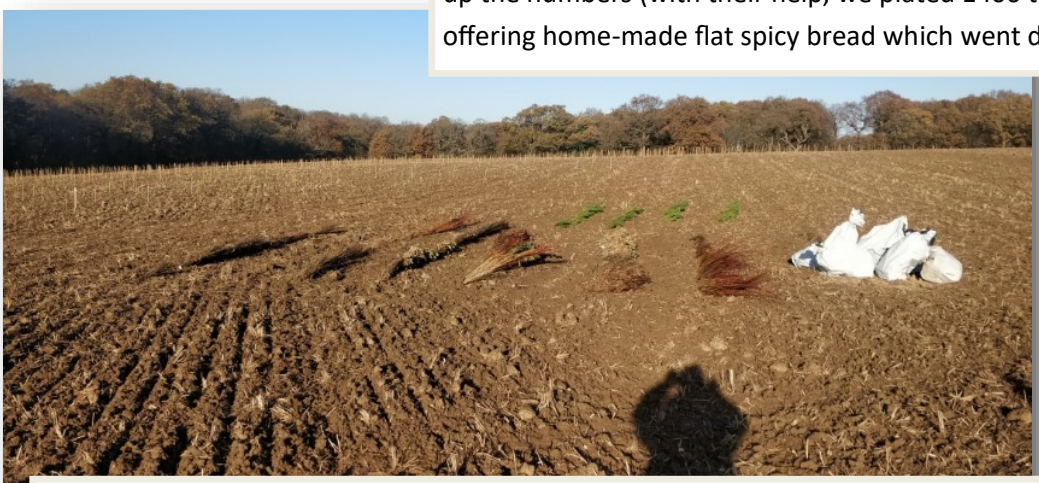
Gavin

Sue

Sue

Ralph

Another tree planting session at Rectory Road and a party of Muslim ladies made up the numbers (with their help, we plated 1400 trees) and they were really jolly, offering home-made flat spicy bread which went down well with our soup



These are the bundles of different indigenous 'whips' (saplings to the uninitiated)

The trusty tool conveyance

We were rewarded by an unexpected day of sunny weather

We were offered some home-made spicy pita which was great with the soup

What makes it so great is the mix of ages ethnic groups and backgrounds all working happily together

If you look carefully this field has been fully planted with whips and will be a substantial wood in years to come

OK...the home-made soup also makes it great

Dec'21 Slowly the news of a new coronavirus mutation is hitting all countries and the rapid spread is again forecast

Our thickly encrusted muddy boots give an idea of how difficult it was to dig the soil.

This is a newly dug pond on the boundary of our newly planted woodland and you can see one of the whips that Lynn and I planted that will surround the pond on one side

I discovered a small tobacco tin with Dad's army memories

I thought that this extract from the website says it better than I can

Thames21 is working with Enfield Council and the community to restore the borough's rivers while boosting people's physical and mental health. They are doing this by working together to create new woodlands and wetlands and by providing exciting volunteering opportunities out in nature:

Healing our rivers

All of Enfield's rivers suffer from pollution, including the Pymmes, Salmon's and Turkey Brooks, tributaries of the River Lea. In the north of the borough farmland pollutants run into rivers, causing algae to spread and oxygen levels to drop, which can be fatal for wildlife. In the urban part of the borough vehicle pollutants are washed into rivers from roads when it rains, disturbing their natural balance. Heavy downpours and droughts intensify these pollution problems and make it harder for species to survive – and these weather events are happening more frequently due to climate change.

Wetlands and trees to the rescue

Many of Enfield's parks contain wetlands, created to soak up and filter pollutants before they reach the rivers. As well as improving water quality these wetlands are beautiful spaces, attracting wonderful wildlife like birds, frogs, newts and dragonflies. The project will work with local people to make sure these wetlands are working well and providing a home for wildlife to flourish.

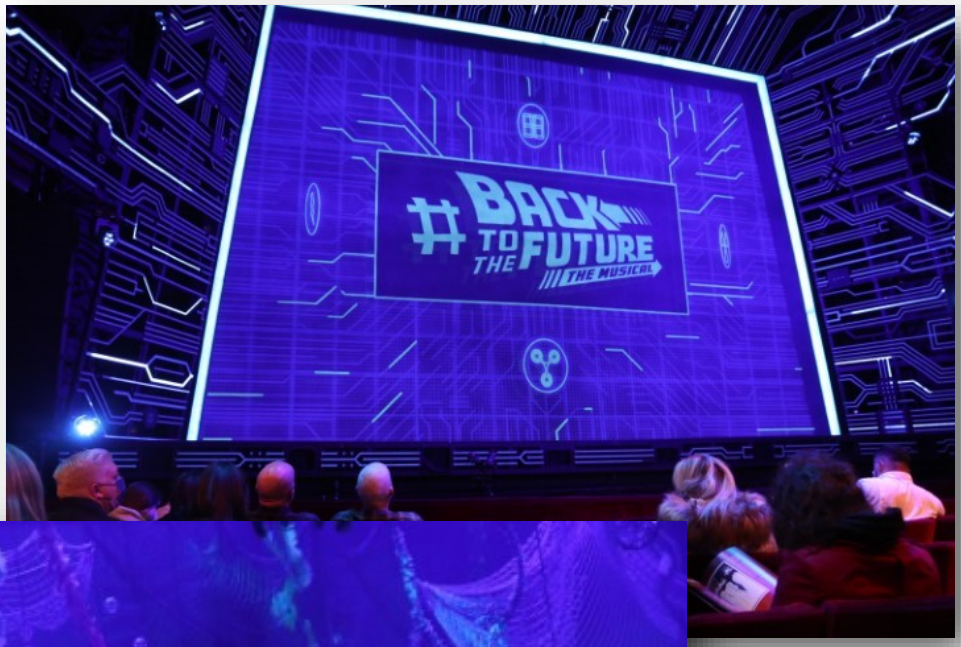
The project will also connect with London's largest reforestation project to restore Enfield Chase and the Salmon's Brook. As well as planting 100 000 trees, this reforestation project will create new wetlands and ponds to slow down rainwater before it enters the Salmon's Brook, reducing the risk of flooding downstream and reducing river pollution by filtering out pollution from nearby farms.

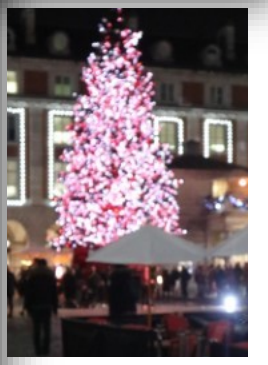
Photo History

Tammy bought us tickets to see 'Back to The Future' which she had seen and raved about. Well, it lived up to her enthusiastic reaction...it was magic. On the return we took a bus to the tube and from our upstairs front seat (insisted on by Lynn) we saw this unexpected gathering of horse-drawn carriages meeting outside the Cambridge Theatre and trotting slowly up the rainy London streets

Photo History

A great snapshot from the show , where bubbles rained down on the audience

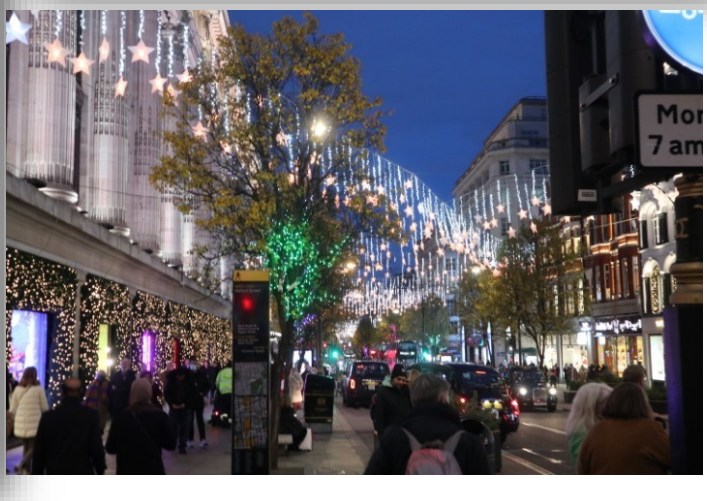




Despite gloomy predictions Covent Garden was heaving and really beautiful

Quite busy in Oxford Street but not the usual pre Xmas panic

..an animated 'round of applause' in Selfridges window



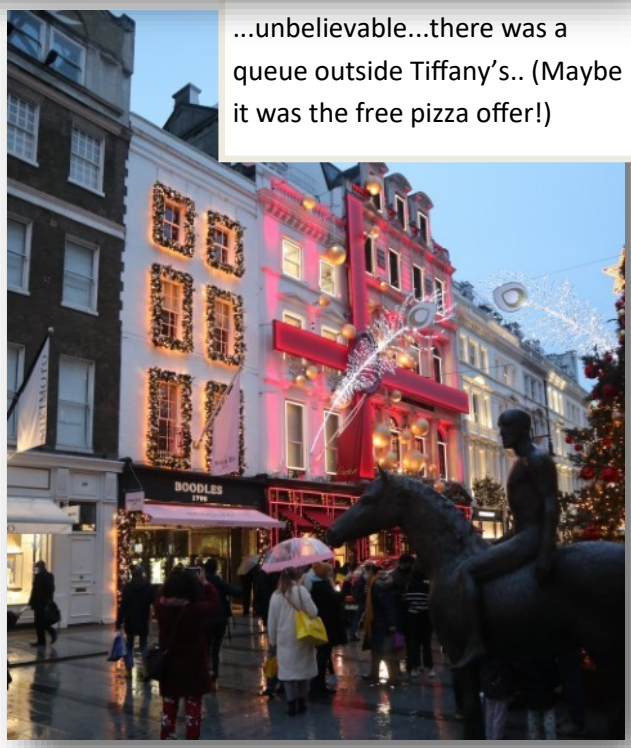
" The man he say, you come to England, plenty easy work, plenty money"

Bond Street pre Christmas...we noticed many big name permanently closed casualties

Burlington Arcade was delightful..lots of people walking through but one wonders how many actually shop there

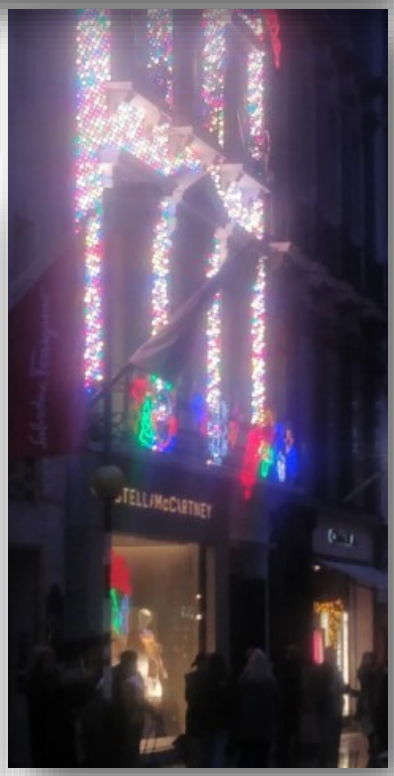
The family coming out of this majestic house painted a great Christmas scene

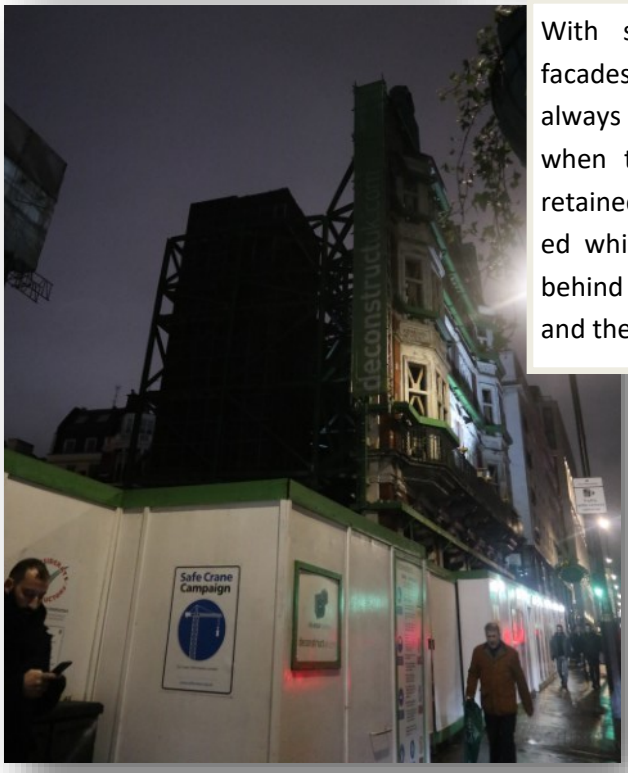
The paintings on sale in this large gallery were just plain green like the lighting...



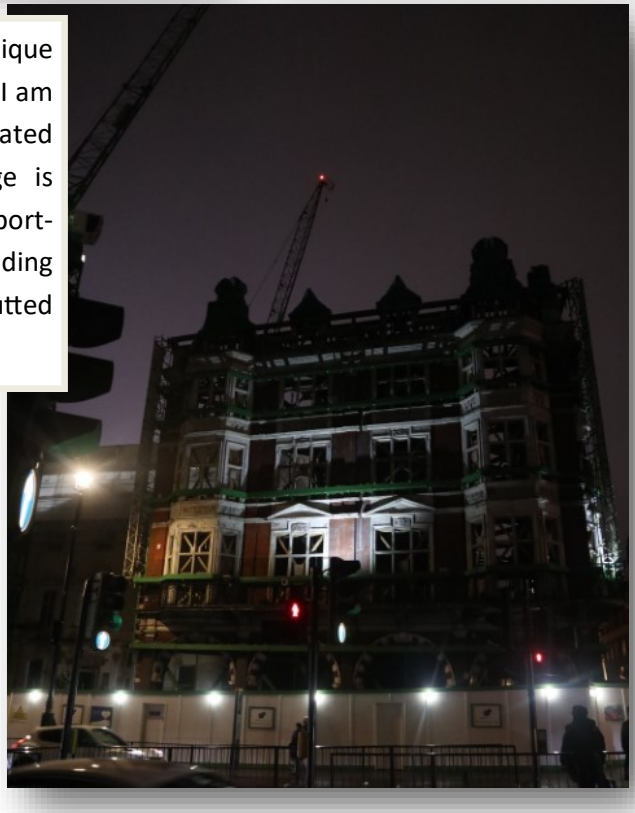
...unbelievable...there was a queue outside Tiffany's.. (Maybe it was the free pizza offer!)

Lots of lights and decorations but rainy and an air of gloom seemed to prevail

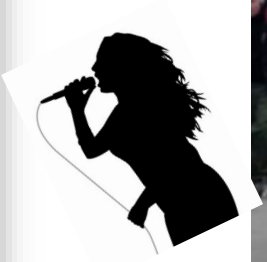


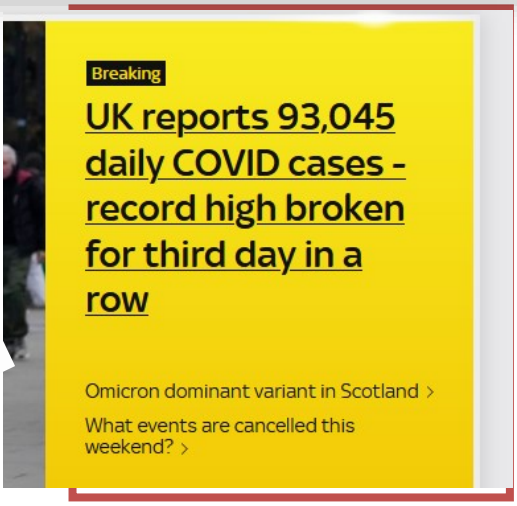


With some unique facades in London I am always fascinated when the frontage is retained and support-ed whilst the building behind is totally gutted and then rebuilt



More bad news as we are once again panicked into mask wearing and the threat of a 'lock-down' Christmas ahead.





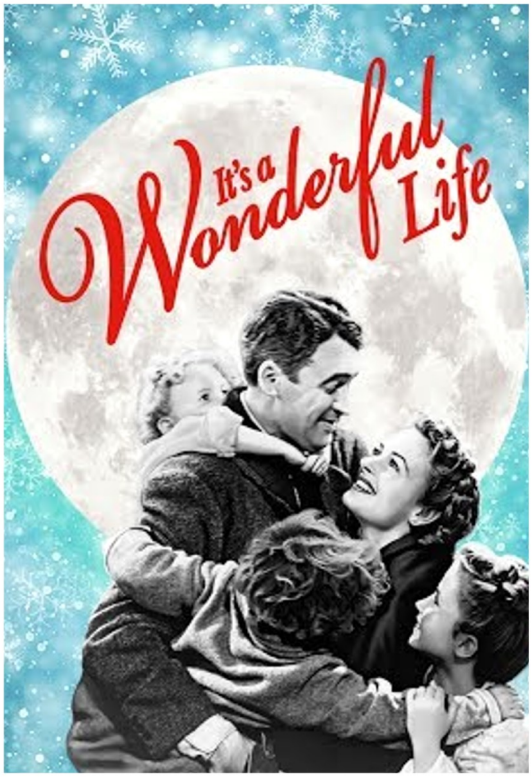
" Some people are great with a microphone, but I prefer using a hoover" says our Vera

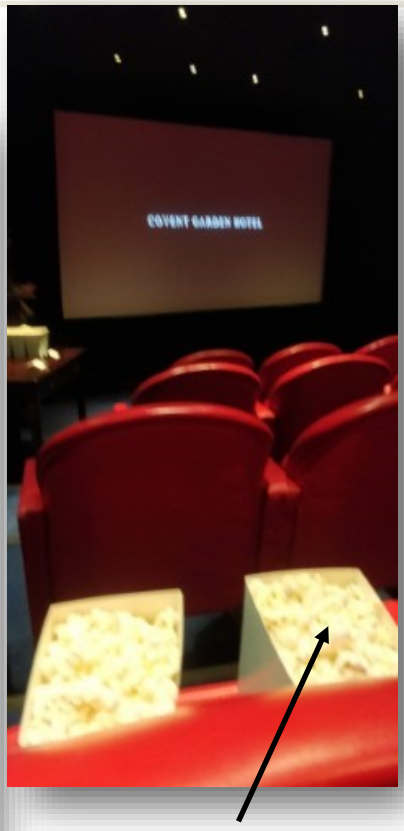
Mulled Wine
SALTED PEANUTS
HONEY ROASTED PEANUTS
£3 PER 100g
HONEY ROASTED ALMONDS

Just before Xmas fearing everything would soon be lockdown once again we booked for a screening of this delightful old b&w film followed by a fabulous afternoon tea at The Covent Garden Hotel in Monmouth Street

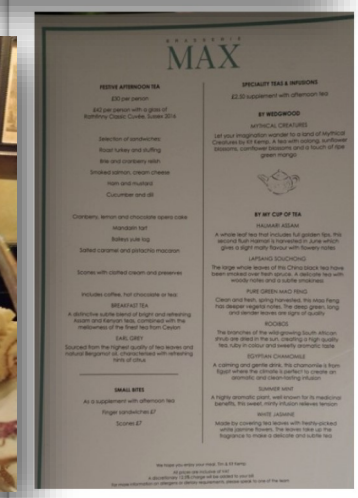
It's a Wonderful Life 1946 Drama fantasy film

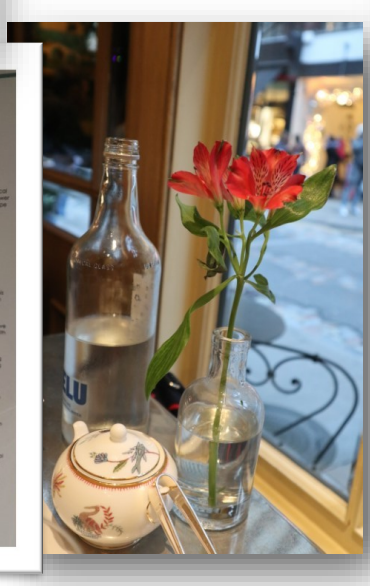
George Bailey, a businessman, is suicidal. An angel named Clarence is sent to help him. He decides to show Bailey what life would have been

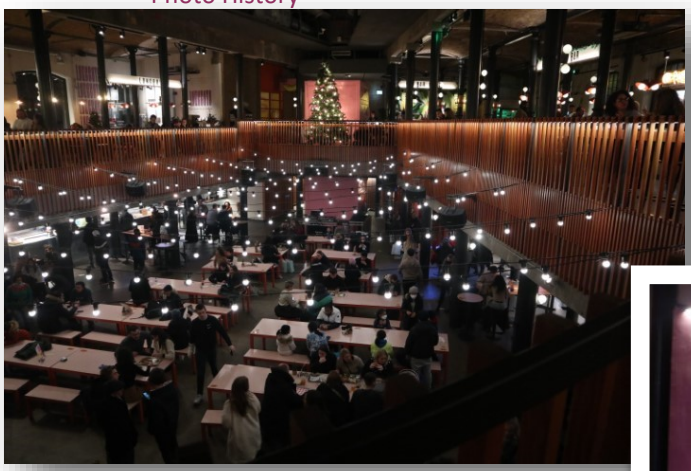




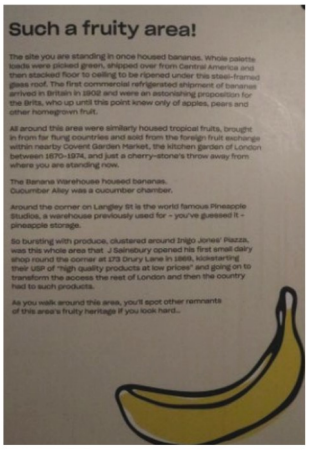
A choice of sweet or savoury popcorn awaited us







The Old Banana Warehouse, behind Covent Garden is now converted to a food court but was unusually quiet, probably due to Covid fears and partly because it is not yet well established



Such a fruity area!

The site you are standing in once housed bananas. Whole pallets loads were picked green, shipped over from Central America and then stacked floor to ceiling to be ripened under this steel-framed glass roof. The first commercial refrigerated shipment of bananas arrived in Britain in 1902 and were an astonishing proposition for the Brits, who up until this point knew only of apples, pears and other homegrown fruit.

All around this area were similarly housed tropical fruits, brought in from far flung countries and sold from the foreign fruit exchange within nearby Covent Garden Market, the kitchen garden of London between 1670–1974, and just a cherry-stone's throw away from where you are standing now.

The Banana Warehouse housed bananas.
Cucumber Alley was a cucumber chamber.

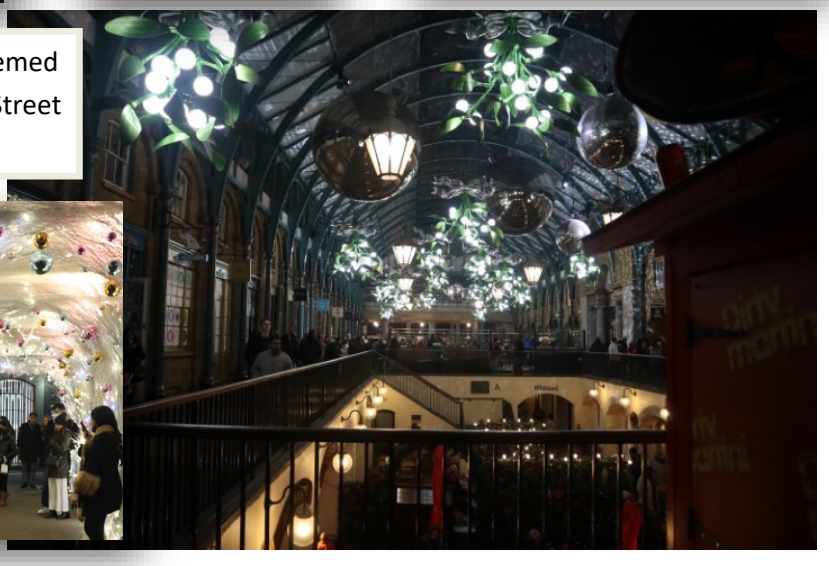
Around the corner on Langley St is the world famous Pineapple Studios, a warehouse previously used for – you've guessed it – pineapple storage.

So bursting with produce, clustered around Inigo Jones' Piazza, was this whole area that J Sainsbury opened his first small dairy shop round the corner at 173 Drury Lane in 1869, kickstarting their USP of "high quality products at low prices" and going on to transform the access the rest of London and then the country had to such products.

As you walk around this area, you'll spot other remnants of this area's fruity heritage if you look hard...

Covent Garden Market itself (The Apple Market) was really buzzing with posing tourists enjoying it

Covent Garden seemed better than Bond Street and Oxford Street



A florists window...award yourself a gold star if you saw it as “ho, ho ho!”

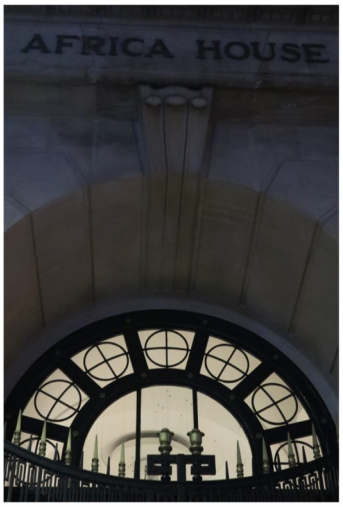
I devised a fun photo quiz. I photographed buildings (etc) around London. The ‘give away ‘ answer is in the white frame so cover this up if you want to take part...

OR
DIO

COVENT GARDEN MARKET

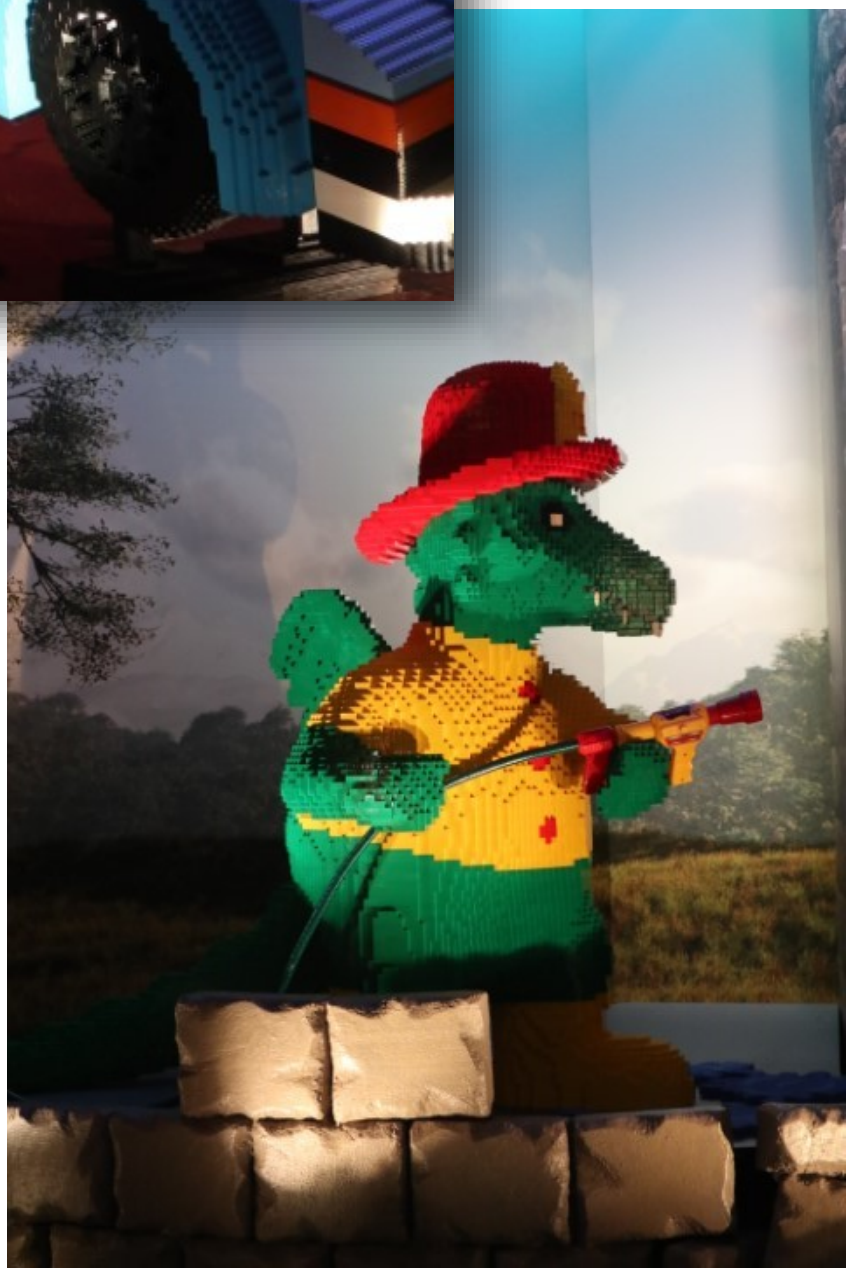
ENTRANCE
FROZEN
FROZEN

THEATRE ROYAL
DRURY LANE

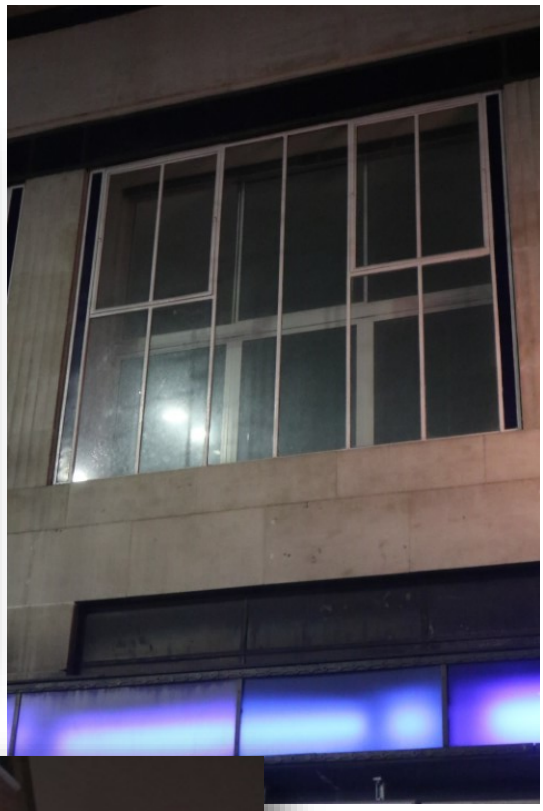

AFRICA HOUSE

...ok….a little clue….***'benchmark'***

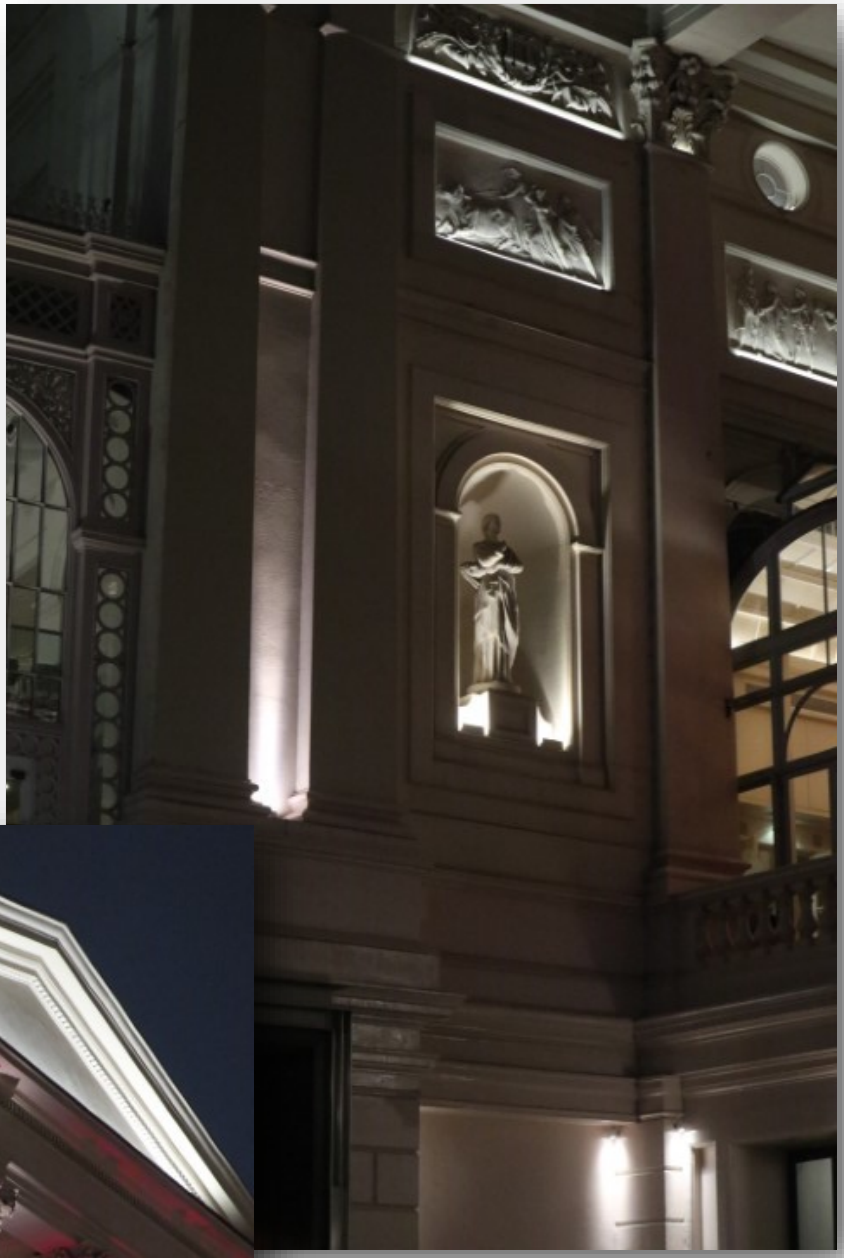
No, youre dead right, they're not buildings...well done but no points unless you can say what they are



...so easy...once you're told!!



Ok clever clogs!!! but there are more than one and no points unless your answer is complete!!"



As this one is so easy , the answer is on the following page..

...yes. Of course you knew it straight away...but the next one will floor you!!

GRAND CONNAUGHT ROOMS

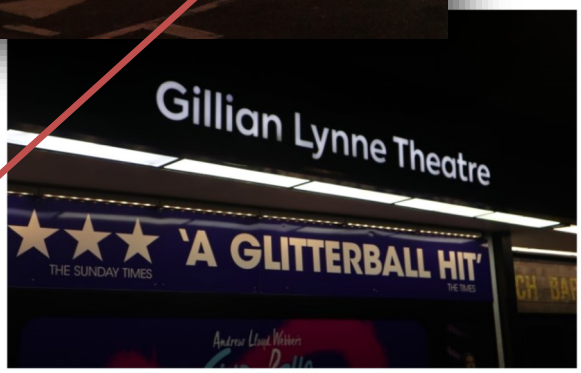
...Yes, you've seen it a hundred times but what's it called??

Minus seven marks if you said "it was on the tip of my tongue"

Don't be so quick...we all know it is Covent Garden. The question however is…"what was he singing??"..It was

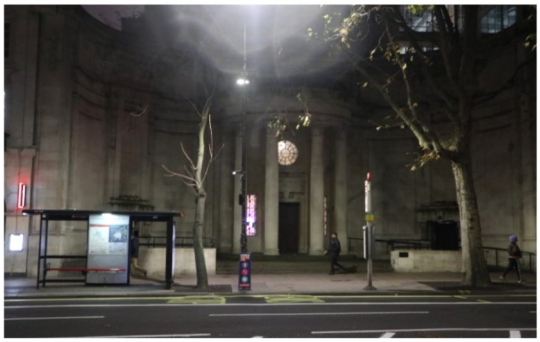
Bohemian Rhapsody… Who said this quiz was going to be fair!!

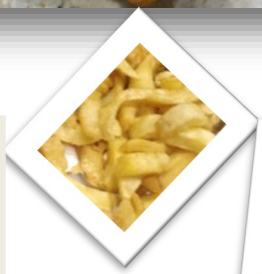
The New London



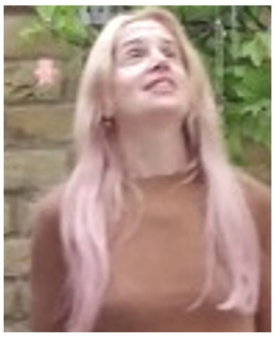
No...that's too easy...we all knew that didn't we??!!...The actual question is what was this theatre previously called ??

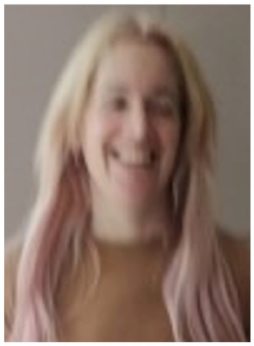
Freemasons' Hall in London is the headquarters of the United Grand Lodge of England and the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England, as well as being a meeting place for many Masonic Lodges in the London area





Santa Jo bought us hot fish , chips and mushy peas with the non-typical addition of dolmades





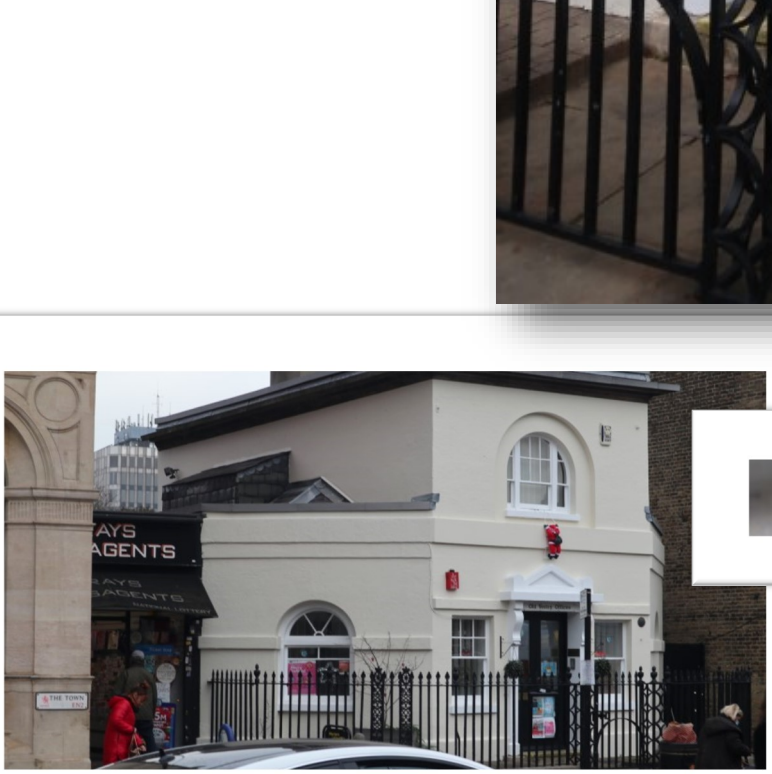
Family ..Dec ‘21

I was banking on you getting this one right

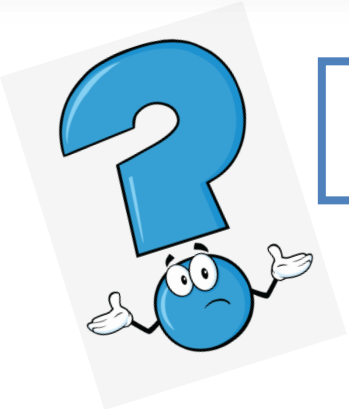
...June 27th **1967**, the world's first ATM was installed. The cash machine was set up outside this branch of Barclays in Enfield, north London.

Yes you guessed correctly what the building is now……but what was it originally??

…..And what was above it??



Old Vestry Offices



It’s so easy once I uncover the next picture!!

...told you!!

It's so easy when you know the answer

...and I thought you'd know this one straight away

...yes, but...give me two names before this current one!!

This just proves that we see so much without really taking it in!!

Of course it registers with you now!!

This is the last one…. The player with the largest number of points gets the Jumbo sweetie pack...well done.